

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1, 6-11 and 16 stand rejected.

Claims 2-5 stand objected-to.

Claims 12-15 and 17-20 are allowed.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been canceled, which renders that rejection moot. Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the filler is included in the core layer. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of claims 6 and 7 are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 8-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being obvious in view of Kennedy et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include a metal stearate in the cover. Kennedy et al. neither discloses nor suggests the inclusion of a metal stearate in the composition for a golf ball outer cover. Kennedy et al. only mentions the optional addition of a metal stearate in an *inner cover*, (5:35-37), which is not an equivalent of Applicants' cover. At best, Kennedy et al.'s inner cover layer can best be understood to be the equivalent of a mantle or middle layer of a golf ball, and not an outer golf ball cover.

For this reason, claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Kennedy et al. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claim 1 under §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11 and 16 depend directly from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reason given for claim 1. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claims 8-11 and 16 are respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-5 have been rewritten in independent form thereby rendering the objections thereto moot.

Reconsideration and removal of the objections to claims 2-5 are respectfully requested.

V. Allowed Claims

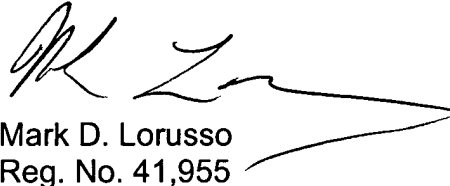
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 12-15 and 17-20.

VI. Conclusion

Based on all the foregoing, claims 1-11 and 16 are considered to define patentably over the prior art. Reconsideration is requested and favorable action is solicited. If any issues remain, Applicants request that undersigned counsel be contacted via collect call to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

LORUSSO & ASSOCIATES



Mark D. Lorusso
Reg. No. 41,955

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3 Pinecrest Terrace
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Tel.: (603) 427-0070
FAX: (603) 427-5530
Email: mlorusso@lloiplaw.com

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Mark D. Lorusso